THE JOURNAL

Volume 1 Number 16

a journal of opinion

Independent

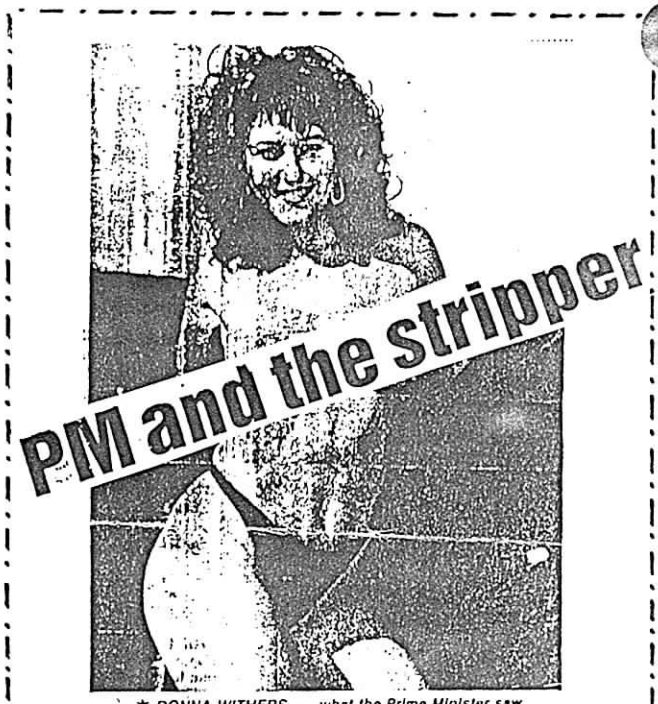
13–20 OCTOBER 1987

A LIE, OZ!

Special report

E taku tamaine, kua kite rai kue e pikikaa?

I wanna make it in the movies, papa!



★ DONNA WITHERS . . . what the Prime Minister saw.

PM and the stripper

On the left is a composite of the photo-copy which has been circulating the country. It refers to a front page article in the Melbourne Edition of WEEKEND TRUTH on the 19 September. After as much investigation as we can afford, the JOURNAL is in a position to assure its readers that the article is a TOTAL LIE!

The Full Story INSIDE

EVERYTHING HAS GONE RIGHT FOR ME THIS WEEK — I'M SO HAPPY

....the words of 21 year old cover girl Donna Marie Withers, sometime stripper whose 36" mammaries poked the eyes out of readers of Page One in the 19 September issue of WEEKEND TRUTH! The occasion was when she won the WA cover girl champs sponsored by PEOPLE magazine. She was less happy when she missed out at the All-Oz grand finals. At 21, shadows are drawing in on starlet time.

SEE INSIDE...

It all fell into place for Donna Marie Withers: two TV spots, then her covergirl final win.

.....and THEN she got together with a Sydney stringer for WEEKEND TRUTH..... ...a cursory check....and...let it roll lads.....

ON TRIAL

In overseas smear Number Two last week (coming on top of an Oz "tits 'n bums" pack of lies about the current PM) the JOURNAL received a copy of the September issue of NZ MONTHLY REVIEW in which military researcher uses speculative guesswork by former "Upstairs" PR woman, Mel Kernahan, to produce a lengthy article in which the former PM Sir Thomas Davis is branded as a US spy for almost a quarter of a century.

Is Wilkes revealing a frightening truth about how the USA has deposed one Prime Minister and controlled the destiny of the nation for almost ten years through Davis, Reuben Tylor, Iaveta Short and other CIA stooges ? Or is this yet another smear on CIs. leaders conducted by the overseas media ? See Inside.

The Smear

The JOURNAL takes apart the two big muck-rakers of the week and reveals a tactic as old as journalism itself.

INSIDE

THE JOURNAL
Weekly
13-20 OCTOBER 1987

Amazing! Incredible! Fantastique! Come to the Cook Islands, folks - that well-known outpost of CIA iniquity where the PM fancies strippers and the former PM freezes beagles! Paradise as you never before imagined 'er, folks.... Read all about it in Melbourne's WEEKEND TRUTH and New Zealand's MONTHLY REVIEW. Or better still, read the JOURNAL and find out for yourself!

EDITOR

Rules of the Game

In what we believe to be an important move in the development of local media, the JOURNAL has voluntarily offered to assist in the setting up of a Press Council.

It is hoped that consultations will take place soon with a view to establishing a role for the public and the press on Atiu which will allow both sides to assist in the development of the media on our island.

Discussions on the viability of setting up a local Press Council may be held in the next few days.

Press Councils are designed to enable the public to participate in the development of the media and for members of media groups to establish standards and broad policies together.

In initiating such a step, the JOURNAL is proceeding along lines set up in other Pacific Islands states following similar voluntary moves to ensure a strong free and responsible press exists in the interests of the people and their leaders.

TIANARA

Big week for our overall development aims!
This week, for the first time, TIANARA stands on its own feet under the direction of its owner/publisher TERAI MANEA and its editor.

We wish it great success as the first original CIs. Newspaper taking on the task of being predominantly Maori. The assistance and support it may get from time to time from English will always be in proportion to the national importance of our two languages.

TIANARA will appear regularly subject to the normal time restraints imposed upon a part-time operation.

Maroiroi e Ina!

"No, but Seriously..."

The events of the past week have not been easy for a small operation like the JOURNAL to cover.

When overseas, publications print what we judge to be smears upon national leaders in this country, they feel at liberty to do so for two reasons:

1. The Cook Islands is irrelevant to them, as are its sensitivities.

2. There is no strong local media force to counter anything written by an outsider.

The smear is extremely difficult to counter in the best of circumstances.

It is figuratively composed of hint, wink, nudge, nudge and all the other devices that suggest that a raging fire exists where only whisps of smoke appear visible.

Literally, its tools are the conditional clause ("if", "should" "given that..." etc); logically, its target is the "straw-man" (a supposition ascribed the status of a reality); and artistically, its presentation is the subliminal lay-out

It has cost us a week of missed deadlines and delays. For this we apologise to readers.

But we felt the issues were important enough to dismantle our weekly procedures and several regular features.

They will all be back in our next issue and, inthe meantime (unless CIN has scooped us by the time this arrives on the street) we hope you enjoy what we have to offer by way of information and interpretation of the week's events.
...suggesting all sorts of horrid things to the sucseptible mind.

The recent smears (as we judge them) of Drs. Robati and Davis were classics of their kind.

They utilised all the standard methods.

Exposure of these methods is, we feel, the best counter.

"Ostrich-like" heads in the sand are but an encouragement to try another pot shot.

Maybe, to some (even the victims) it doesn't matter. It's all a good laugh.

We deny that.

The only people who would find smears of government and its leaders a "good laugh" are those to whom government, its leaders and therefore its pepple irrelevant.

We were relieved to find the results of our investigations led to a conviction that Dr. Robati was innocent and that, equally, no case had been offered of merit against Sir Thomas or Mr. Tylor.

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a national publication.

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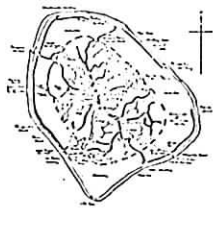


Vera's first. again

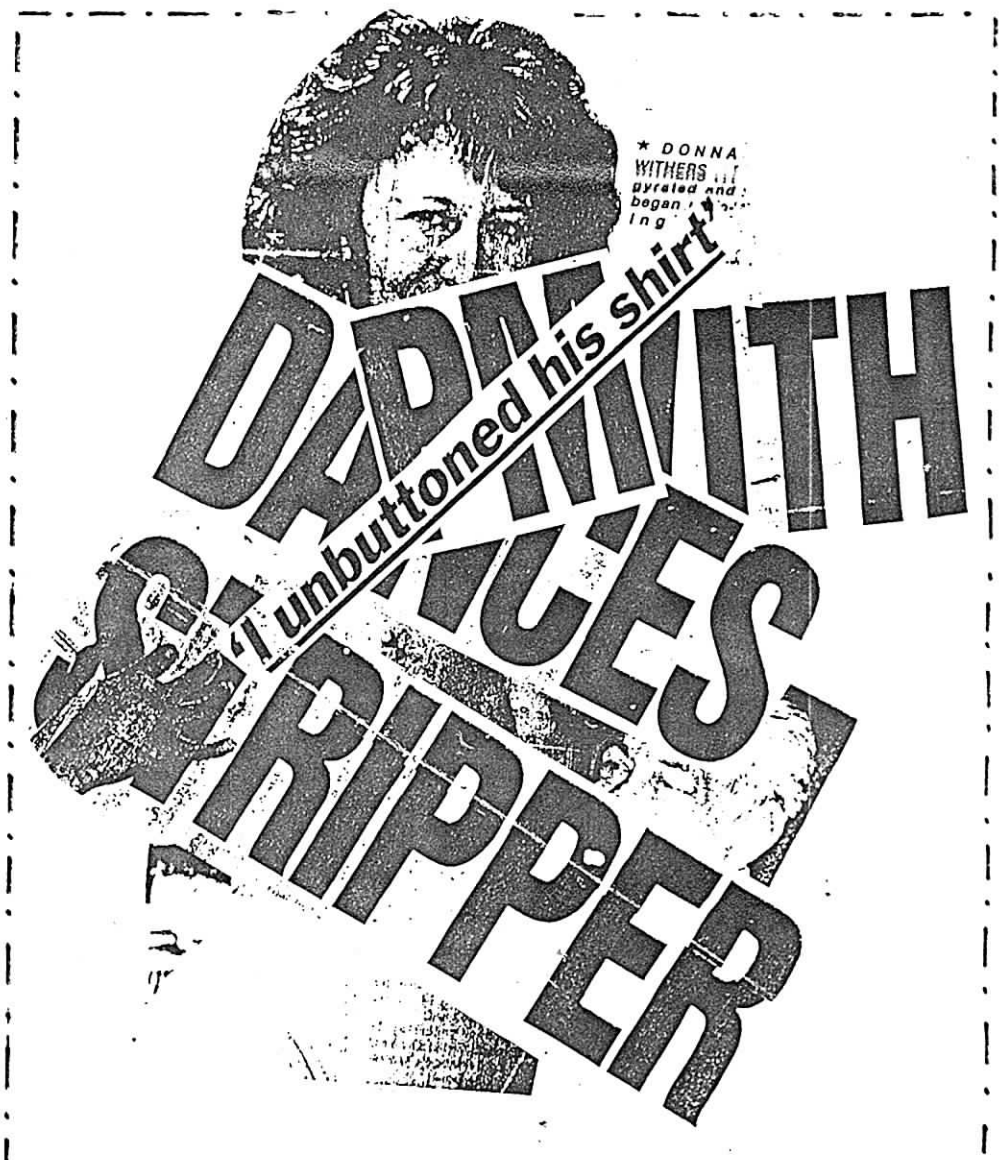
First to predict the frolic in olde Mururoa.

First to predict high-level knocker problems.

What next. A raise is on the cards but we've given an extra page in lieu (14/15)

2

THE BIG CON



A JOURNAL montage of the photocopied sheets of WEEKEND TRUTH which were circulated around the country last week purporting to show the PM in scenes which, if true would have been a flagrant breach of diplomatic protocol and an appalling indictment of our leaders.

It had to happen, of course. The big sexy scandal. Just like in the real countries!

It's almost like a coming of age. A special extra celebration of independence.

We've signed our own international treaty, negotiated our airport, had tea with Mrs. Thatcher. What's left, given that we're not really in the space shuttle league ? Maybe a war. Or a Nobel Prize.

What the industrial revolution did for Europe, Ms Donna Marie Withers' boobs have done for the Cook Is.

We are now really part of the modern world.

Our leaders are real actual targets. This year it's the Withers nipples lined up in a Cook Island leader's direction. Next year, maybe a Kalshnikov.

What a time, the Coalition has ushered in. Well, they promised us they'd had enough of us going happy, smiling mealy-mouthed around our own palm-fronded backwater. They said they were going to take us out there where it's all happening. And they warned us there would be risks!

Well, one of the risks gyrated in the PM's direction. And he took it on the chin like a good middleweight.

And, as they say in Oz, good on yer' PM, sir. You let no one down!

As a Cook Islands paper, the JOURNAL is delighted to report the truth behind yet another demonstration of gutter-style media that Emperor Murdoch and the Aussies have inflicted on the English-speaking world.

Of course, the truth would have "outed" anyway. But, PM and Ministers, isn't it better this way ? Out in the open. Clear and simple. Rather than hidden away on the back page of CIN in an "Upstairs" hand-out about defamation suits and so on.

Because, PM, no matter how hurt and angry you might have been, the real insult and smear was not directed at you. No Aussie reader would even remember your name. But they will remember your country.

So the smear is not to you. It is to the country. And to those who have given lives, careers and effort to it.

They gave their lives, careers etc. in the belief that the country was worth while and that the elected leaders (faults, weaknesses, mistakes et al) were out there doing their best. NOT, as the overseas media has twice (in NZ and Australia) in the last week, suggested to us...that while we were back here at the desk or the sink or the swamp spade, you lot were rollicking around with strippers or selling us out to the CIA. There were those who did not take the TRUTH or NZ MONTHLY REVIEW photocopies as a chance for a smirk and a giggle.

They took things seriously as an attack on what they'd devoted their careers to.

Many whom we spoke to were willing to trust that the PM had behaved.

But, with an obvious nagging doubt. Until we could breakthrough on our limited facilities, that was our position, too. We had our headlines set up to report on the smear we detected. And we explained that to a high government source we contacted who backed off and offered us no help whatsoever.

Back page Government handouts and hints of possible long-drawn-out law suits are not good enough as an interpretation by CIN of their legal duty under the Act to report what is in "the public interesT".

And, if documented smear that depicts the PM of the Cook Islands beaming contentedly down at a half-naked pub tart; and a five page expose of the previous PM cynically selling out the country to the USA militarists for the ten years; and a leading lawyer organising foreign spy rings; and the offshore banking industry which is

reportedly the lynchpin of our economy being run by crooks and spies, ...if THAT isn't in the "public interest" and meriting in toto a bit more than half a dozen pars on the back page of the National Press next to QUICK LOOK...then "taaturu mai iaku, Jehovah."

We think, however, that we HAVE acted in the "public interest" and not hidden our heads like so many journalistic ostriches in the sand of nite club openings, official talks, primary school sports and bodybuilding champs while the nation was being dragged in the mud overseas.

Which brings us back at length to where we started...in the modern world into which the Coalition have plunged us, rightly or wrongly, deeper than ever before.

It is a world full of hazards, not the least of which is the Murdoch-style tabloid press to whom a story has no ethical content, just saleability. They are real nasties out there and they eat gentlemanly papas over late afternoon deadlines.

It is time for a modern, upgraded press at home and a modern, sensible attitude to the media. THAT is the way to ensure proper protection. Flosse does it. And survives well because of it. We did it for the Mini-Games and the Forum in 1985.

Dr. Pupuke Robati, MP Rakahanga, PM of the Cook Islands.

It is time for the open, frank press conference that only Geoffrey Henry and Norman George run. It did once happen, until in childishness some Ministers apparently reckoned Norman was getting too much limelight!

It is time to treat our own pressmen with the respect governments have given to overseas press(who turn round and run them down).

It is time to issue work permits to any cameraman or pressman who wanders in to the country and (in the words of a former CIN editor) "rapes the place senseless of saleable stories".

It is time to issue licences, establish a Press Council, promote a Maori language press, back the formation of a Journalists Union.

Pacific Islands journalists are, in our experience, among the most responsible around the commercial press world.

Even our rampaging Tahitian colleagues who possess highly embarrassing photos of visiting politicians in action (no names as we are responsible, too!) have suppressed many so that (to quote) "a whole country need not be ashamed by a drunk"!

Journalists ARE responsible people, by and large...just like politicians!

The Coalition has done pretty well in terms of CIs history in allowing some freedom of expression.

We would ask that positive direction be given by government in the form of taking some of the steps suggested above.

A thoroughgoing free press is, we feel, the best guarantee that our leaders are well-equipped to represent us to the media abroad and a small professional travelling team on visits (a la Flosse) is the best guarantee that no such incidents as the two smears of last week need occur.

The price, though, may sadly be too much for our politicians. The price is the one we were braced to pay when we picked up the phone for the final, clinching Australian call. If Ms. Withers' story HAD been backed, then it would have gone on the front page, too. In the "public interest."

We were confident, though. 22 years of elected CIs office would not be thrown away in a seedy Oz pub.

And, we were right. And pleased to know that the PM and his party represented the country with propriety.

But, having said all that, there is still a price to be paid. And we hope Dr. Robati's lawyers extract it in full. It's a most unpleasant feeling to have the thought that careers have been devoted to a ridiculous nation which a pub stripper thinks she can wave her tits at.

Not that they're all that bad.... SEE VERA.

Lying truth

The Melbourne-based WEEKEND TRUTH's 19 September article on its front and inside pages describing an alleged incident in which the PM is supposed to have:

1. Broken all diplomatic procedures in entering Australia without the knowledge of the Australian government...

2. Placed his person and party at a security risk....

3. Laughed and cheered a pub stripper's act, cleared his table for her to dance upon, danced salaciously with her and behaved with astounding impropriety..

4. No identification of any other member of the PM's party was mentioned.

5. No "action pickie" was offered e.g. the pub, the party, scuffling bodyguards etc.

6. No interviews were taken e.g. hotel staff.

7. Dr. Robati, as a visiting PM, just cannot "slip into Australia". Anyone who knows diplomatic procedure would find it hard to imagine. He would be in major diplomatic trouble if he tried it.

8. "Bodyguards" are the stuff of fantasy.

9. Dr, Robati's "interview" contains not one statement linking him to the events of the article.

With these considerations in mind, we began to try to pin the story down at the Australian end.

We planned to contact TRUTH, the hotel mentioned in the story and the Australian Foreign Affairs Pacific desk.

The News Editor of TRUTH was curt in his responses and gradually began to hedge.

"Yes," he remembered the story.

"No," it didn't carry a bye-line, "it came from one of our Sydney stringers who rang it in."

"Yes, we checked it."

How ?

"We rang the PM at his Canberra hotel."

And he said?

-no reply

And he said ?

-no reply

(POSSIBLY DUE TO A VERY POOR LINE OR THAT THE EDITOR WAS NOT USED TO RADIO TELEPHONE PROCEDURES)

(SEE PAGE 12)

is a lie.

This was confirmed to the JOURNAL by the manager of the Clock Hotel, Crown Street Sydney (not the Surry Hills Suburb described in the TRUTH article).

The JOURNAL's arrival at the actual "truth" followed the lines described below.

Our only setback was when we followed the request made to us by Norman George when handling difficult stories. "Print what you wish but please print both sides and always ask us for our side before rushing into print." (It was the same message given to all the media by Minister George in the last session of Parliament).

This time, when we took the results of our deductions (which turned out to be fairly near the truth in the end) to a high government source, we were given a blank even when we asked whether we were pointing in the right direction.

We accepted that and were left with the following observations and conclusions (which of course EVERYBODY NOW sees..."but I never believed it anyway" etc.)

1. Donna Marie Withers' pic was a modelling pose superimposed on the headline.

2. Dr. Robati's pic was extra faded and probably a photo-copy.

3. No evidence except that of Ms Withers was offered.

issue

Sir Papadoc and the CIA: Dirty Work in the Cook Islands

— Owen Wilkes —

CLUMSY!

The September Issue of New Zealand Monthly Review features a lengthy expose of Sir Thomas Davis' alleged involvement with the CIA. The article, by professional researcher into military activities of nations around the globe Owen Wilkes, indicates that, for almost the whole of the last nine years we have been led by a Prime Minister and a bunch of Bemo party strategists and lawyers who have been tools of the CIA. The following review of Owen Wilkes' article was written by Editor David Lewis, after a reporter had obtained it from a Wilkes' contact in Rarotonga. Over the last ten years David Lewis has met, interviewed and written about all the CIs. charcters in the Wilkes' story.

Excerpt

An era seemed to have ended in the Cook Islands on 29 July when a unanimous vote of no-confidence was passed against Prime Minister Sir Tom Davis. Sir Tom had been a strong supporter of US and French interests in the Pacific, and an opponent of the nuclear-free Pacific movement. In this article Owen Wilkes looks at the 19 years Davis spent in the US at the strange way he came into political power, and at some of the evidence for him being an agent of influence for the US government.

'Cold' war scientist Tom Davis, a Cook Islander, got a medical degree at Otago, worked as a Medical Officer in the Cooks from 1945 to 1953, then spent 19 years in the US. He usually describes those years as having been spent working for NASA as a space surgeon. He even has a lump of 'moon rock' in his office to prove it. But in a frank moment two years ago he blew his own cover. He told *Islands Business* that he had never worked for the US space agency and he didn't "know where people got that idea from."

In fact, most of the time he was working, directly or indirectly, for the US Army. He started in at the Army's Arctic Aeromedical Laboratory in Alaska. In 1956 he switched to the Army Medical Research Laboratory at Ft Knox, Kentucky and in 1961 he went to the Army Research Institute for Environmental Medicine, Division of Cold and Altitude Research, Boston.

For most of this time he was doing research on the effects of cold on the human body. This was the era when the US realised that the shortest route between the Soviet Union and the US lay across the Arctic, and began girding itself for war in the Arctic, where all sorts of bomber bases, DEWline radar stations and so on were being built. The Military was concerned about the ability of the American serviceman to survive and fight under polar conditions.

Dr Tom helped churn out some 42 mostly short scientific papers on this subject, For example in 1961 he delivered a paper on "The effects of acclimatization on response to cold stress" to an Armed Forces conference on "Research relevant to behaviour problems of small military groups under isolation and stress." Another of his papers covered "Some microbiological and sanitary aspects of military operations in Greenland."

Some of this work was a trifle bizarre. Conscripts were put in freezer chambers until hypothermia set in, over the protests of their Mems. In one experiment described in the *American Journal of Physiology* Davis gave mongrel dogs haircuts before putting them in the freezers at -10 degrees for 8 hour stretches.

In the three years he was at the Army Institute of Environmental Medicine Davis had a peripheral involvement with the space program. This was the era when the military was very interested in having 'men in space' to occupy the 'high ground'. Davis went to a course at the USAF Missile Test Centre, Patrick Air Base Florida and over the next three years worked occasional shifts in front of a video screen monitoring heartbeat etc whenever astronauts were in orbit. He was also called in once when NASA was having trouble with instrumentation on a space monkey. The 'space surgeon' legend is based on this. Davis had to acquire US citizenship (in 1959) to be able to work on the space program.

By 1963 the military was winding down its preoccupation with the Arctic and getting into hot wars in places like Vietnam. Cold region research went into decline, and tropical medicine came into vogue. Davis had practiced tropical medicine in the Cooks, but apart form one paper in Military Medicine he did not venture again into this field, but instead, for reasons unknown, quit working for the Army directly.

Chemical warmonger?

He shifted instead across Boston to the big research and consultancy corporation Arthur D. Little Inc, and became their chief research physician, with "overall responsibility for research in several fields, including operant behaviour on response to pharmacologic agents... clinical research of a basic and applied nature..." (according to his CV). This work was being done for both industry and the military, and possibly for the CIA.

Arthur D. Little dominates the US consultancy/research field, and has been described as a kind of scientific mercenary force, which will do research to prove what anyone is willing to pay to have proved. In recent weeks Arthur D. Little has earned a fat fee off Ansell Steritech to tell the Manukau City Council how safe irradiation is. While at Arthur D. Little Davis worked on a tobacco industry-funded project to prove smoking was safe (he piped smoke, sulphur dioxide, formaldehyde mist and other nasties into the lungs of tracheotomised guinea pigs) and he did work on a sugar industry contract to show that cyclamate sweeteners were unsafe.

Davis was also involved in work on the behavioural effects of various psychoactive drugs including amphetamines and THC, the active ingredient of marijuana. Davis' only known publication on the subject, in *Psychopharmocologia*, indicated funding by the American Medical Association. Most of Arthur D. Little's work was being done for the US Army Chemical Corps which in those days was looking into the possibility of using synthetic homologues of THC as chemical warfare incapacitating agents. Arthur D. Little had at least two big contracts active in this time, worth over a million dollars (big money in the 1960s). According to Martin A Lee, a historian of the era, Arthur D. Little carried out the "most significant" research on this, and discovered a form of THC more powerful than LSD, the drug then favoured as an incapacitant...

One confidential report out of dozens by Arthur D. Little for US Army Edgewood Arsenal has been declassified - "*New Incapacitating agents: preclinical pharmacology and toxicology of agent 226 169*" (The mind boggles at the thought of the Army testing over a quarter million chemical war agents - yet the Chemical Corps claimed to have tested over 100 000 chemicals in 1963-67 alone). The report describes work done under Army contract DA18-108-AMC-103(A), And the experiments were very much what one would expect Davis to be supervising as chief research physician. Beagle dogs were bent into little tins, nothing so lighthearted as simply giving them a joint to smoke - the drug was injected in large enough doses to induce "ataxia, vocalization, convulsions, prostration, and loss of consciousness." Seven hours after an injection, one dog convulsed when touched, then vocalized loudly as if in pain. This dog and one other were able to get up when touched but were severely ataxic." The dogs were killed and autopsied at the end. Similar experiments were done on monkeys.

CIA mindbender?

There has also been speculation that Davis was doing drug research for the CIA in this period. The CIA was of course, then very interested in mind-altering drugs, and had a highly secret and literally mind-boggling program called MK Ultra, testing these drugs under bizarre conditions towards bizarre ends - as 'truth serums' for interrogation, and for chemically programming assassins so they would suffer selective amnesia and not be able to remember who ordered them to kill. The program only came to light in the 1970s, in the wake of Watergate.

Back to the Cooks

The Arthur D. Little job came to an end in 1971 - after they had been trying for some time to find ways of getting rid of him. Also about this time his long-troubled marriage came apart. Davis had saved no money, but sold up the Boston house, put a down payment on a yacht and headed off to the Caribbean. For some reason he stopped at Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and flew off to have a quick look around the Cook Islands. While he was away the boat was seized under probate. When he returned to Florida Davis was somehow able to raise the money to get the boat out of probate and resume cruising for a while in the Bahamas. Close associates are still puzzled about where the money came from.

He returned to the Cooks permanently in October 1971, with the intention of entering politics, in response to requests from old friends who were worried about the increasing nepotism, corruption and inefficiency of Sir Albert Henry and his Cook Islands Party (CIP). Tom Davis set up the first real opposition, the Democratic Party, more often known as 'The Demos'.

Flying voters

A problem for the Demos was that many of their potential supporters had found it too oppressive under Sir Albert, and had shifted to New Zealand, where they were unable to vote in Cook Island elections. For the 1974 election the Demos hit on the novel idea of flying in voters, with charter flights obligingly paid for by an American 'millionaire' and friend of Davis, Gerald O'Farrell, who was then promoting a big real estate scheme outside Christchurch. The flying voters didn't help, Davis lost.

In 1978 there was another snap election and this time Sir Albert decided to put on free flights for voters too, with charters

paid from government funds. The coffers didn't hold the necessary $300 000, which had to be 'advanced' by Finbar Kenny, another US millionaire, who had the monopoly on printing Cook Island postage stamps and selling them to collectors - a virtual licence to print money.

Kenny's 'advance' was the downfall of Sir Albert. After the election MP Iaveta Short, and his law partner Reuben Tyler, filed petitions on behalf of the Demos alleging that the free flights for CIP voters constituted treating or bribery of voters. The charges were upheld, Tom Davis was sworn in as PM, and Sir Albert was stripped of his knighthood. Iaveta Short became a cabinet minister, and later Cook Islands Government representative in Wellington. Reuben Tyler was put in charge of the offshore banking / taxhaven industry. Sir Tom was made a KBE 'for services to medicine and the Cook Islands people" (those Beagle dogs did not die in vain). On New Years Day 1981 Plain Mr Albert Henry died of a broken heart on the same day after hearing about Davis' knighthood.

The Demos also flew in voters in 1978 but this time they wisely made them pay in advance. The arithmetic of all this is fascinating. The going rate then for an Air NZ epic return was $311. Sir Albert hired Ansett aircraft at $700 per voter. The Demos hired Air Nauru at only $245 per voter, even though Air Nauru had to fly empty planes much further in order to take up the charter at Auckland. Anyone looking for conspiracy in all this could suggest that the Ansett prices were specially inflated to get Sir Albert into big financial trouble, while someone paid a secret subsidy to Air Nauru to make the Demo charter so cheap.

CIP people in the Cooks today see the hand of the CIA in all this. While admitting that Sir Albert had his faults, they also feel he was set up through Kenny. They point to the inadequate laundering of the Kenny funds (described by Iaveta Short in Crocombe's "*Cook Island Politics: the Inside story*") as evidence, and they point to the way in which Kenny got off very lightly in his subsequent prosecution under the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. He was expected to go to jail for a year. Instead he got only a nominal fine, apparently in return for agreeing to testify against Sir Albert.

CIA case officer?

If it is correct that Davis was hired as a potential Prime Minister by the CIA about the time he left Arthur D. Little, then the person most likely to have recruited him is Edmund W Kelly, a CIA career officer documented by Philip Agee in "*Dirty Work II*". It is known that as late as 1983 Thomas corresponded with Kelly, whom he described as an old friend and retired CIA officer. According to Agee, relying on State Department records, Ed Kelly was working for the CIA under State Dept cover from 1968 to 1980, serving in Beirut, Moscow, Nairobi, and Athens, as well as "Washington" ie. CIA HQ in Langley, Virginia. Kelly was in 'Washington' 1970-71, which was the right time to be Davis' case officer.

Once in power Davis rapidly became even less popular than his predecessor, and exhibited many of the same faults. Sir Albert at least had a genuine, leftist concern for those he chose to call 'the little people'. Sir Tom had an aloof, withdrawn, autocratic style. He headed a country with a population far smaller than what many NZ County Council chairpersons administer. His lifestyle was quite out of proportion. He had two full time personal chauffeurs and three luxury cars. The most recent was a secondhand Jaguar imported for $45 000. Sir Tome refused to reply to a parliamentary question asking who paid for the car, saying the question was "improper as it is an implication that the car was paid for by someone else to whom I am now obligated."

The Cooks become a CIA money laundry

In 1982 a Hawaiian entrepreneur, Don Beach, moved into Rarotonga and setup the Beachcomber Restaurant. He also registered a Cook Islands branch of Bishop Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, the company we now know was a CIA front, at the offices of the law partnership of Iaveta Short and Reuben Tyler. BBRD&W listed the same post box, telex and telephone numbers as Short & Tyler. The branch was listed in BBRD&W brochures, with Don Beach a staff member. Elsewhere Beach was described as one of BBRD&W's "outstanding consultants."

An April 1985 story in *Islands Business* quoted Short & Tyler as claiming it was unaware of any CIA link in the BBRD&W agency. This produced a strange reaction - Reuben Tyler denied that his firm had ever denied a CIA connection "because we had no authority from our client to do so."

What attracted BBRD&W, and the CIA, to the Cooks were the offshore banking facilities that had been set up only a month or two earlier. The essence of offshore banking is that foreigners can set up shell companies in the Cooks where operations are taxfree and guaranteed total financial secrecy. Offshore banks are notoriously useful for shifting large amounts of money across international borders for drug and arms transactions without leaving incriminating paper trails. The Caribbean is the region chiefly associated with offshore banking - the CIA Nugan Hand Bank in Sydney had a branch in the Caymans for this purpose, and according to Ron Rewald the CIA tasked his firm with picking up money laundering formerly done by Nugan Hand. But the Caymans were no longer the place to do it, because under pressure from the US Internal Revenue Service the Caymans were giving tax investigators access to bank records. The Cook Islands offshore legislation was specifically designed to avoid the "pitfalls" of the Caymans (according to *Islands Business*)

There is a fascinating book on money laundering -"*In Banks We Trust*" by Penny Lernoux - which describes the relations between the CIA, shady banks, and the drug trade. Lernoux points out that the drug runners and the CIA basically need the same kinds of banks, those that know how to avoid governmental investigation, and that these banks were concentrated in Miami because of proximity to the Caribbean offshore facilities, to most of the drug operations, and to the Locus of many of the CIA's more expensive operations. The Cook Islands link to the Miami nexus was quite likely to be Ed Kelly again, who in 1983 was Senior Vice President of the National Bank of Florida, at 5000 Biscayne Blvd, Miami. He has probably played the same role Donald Beazley, nominal president of Nugan Hand, played as President of the City National Bank, Miami.

Ron Rewald affidavit

CIA/BBRD&W interest in using the Cooks for money laundering was described several times in the documentation for Ron Rewald's trial. Rewald said in an affidavit, "The agency needed bankers. And laundry operations and so on. They were always pushing us to put up offshore banks and things of this nature.... I had a couple of people... to research offshore bank possibilities in the Caymans and the Cooks Islands.... This is what we were doing in Guam. And we opened the trust company there. We had the only trust company approved for Guam.... It is an important part of the Agency function to be able to leave funds around the world. And banks and trust companies are the easiest way to do that."

In the Cooks a trust company was already available - the South Pacific Trust Corporation Ltd, headed by Reuben Tyler. Tyler was also a member of the Cook Islands Monetary Board which administered offshore banking. Sir Tom must have been involved - through his being chairman of the Monetary Board, and through his hobnobbing with Rewald in Honolulu.

BBRD&W collapsed in 1983, and the big question now is - are CIA funds still being laundered through the Cooks? As is usual with questions about the CIA no conclusive answer can be given, but the offshore facilities are still operating, and there are any number of Cook island 'branches' of US corporations that could be serving as the current CIA front. Mr Tyler has noted that the volume of money entering New Zealand from US corporations sheltering in the Cooks has increased since the Anzus dispute (*Press* 13 August 1986). Could any of this be money being put into the destabilisation of nuclear-free New Zealand?

CIA Airline in the Cooks?

Until 4 July this year Sir Tom had as civil aviation adviser an ex-CIA pilot who has been trying to set up what looked very much like a CIA airline in the Cooks.

Dr Larry Fahey came to the Cooks on holiday from the US in May 1983, decided he like the place, settled down, and registered a paper airline called InterAir, that was supposed to acquire an old ex-military C-119 cargo plane to fly in fresh fruit and vegetables from the outer islands. A year later, according to his own account, he was summoned to the PM's office offered the job of Civil aviation adviser. Davis enthused over the idea of a C-119 for shifting government equipment around the islands, but there was no finance to get things moving. Then in late 1985 a California-based company called Linkrusd proposed to build a luxury hotel at Avana Lagoon. It was arranged that Linkrusd would fund the airline, adding a 60-seater to the proposed fleet.

The whole enterprise was quite weird. The Cooks already have two internal airlines, there was no way the trade could support a 60-seater, the profitability of flying fresh vegetables at 26 cents a kilo was doubtful to say the least, and Linkrusd turned out to be an unregistered shell company, operating out of an ordinary suburban house. The scheme collapsed.

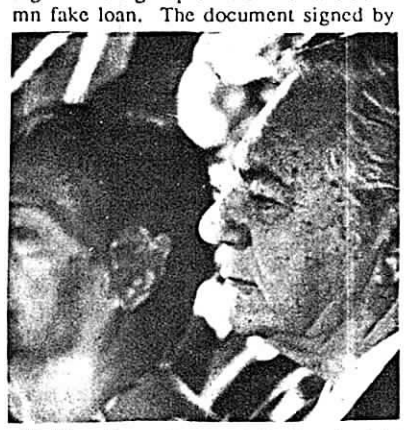
The curriculum vitae of Fahey shows he was in the US Air Force from 1953 to 1981, did courses in "counterinsurgency, political warfare, and small arm tactics" and that he has a reserve rank of Lt Colonel. After leaving the Military he flew and instructed for Markair Inc and was a "special activities aviation consultant" for Alaska International Air. "Special activities" is often euphemism for CIA work, and both these airlines are documented as flying under contract to the CIA. Both have Neil Bergt as chairman, and both operate out of the same premises in Alaska. Markair was in the news in 1986 when Eugene Hasenfus was shot down over Nicaragua while flying munitions to the Contras for the CIA in a Southern Air Transport plane. SAT is documented as a CIA proprietary airline until 1973, and has been flying under contract for the CIA since. After the shootdown Neil Bergt was quoted in US papers as complaining that SAT was "the CIA's favourite airline" and that Markair now gets contracts only if SAT is unable to do them. Markair CIA missions flown over Nicaragua and Honduras were described in the *Washington Post* (27 July 1986). The CIA pedigree of Alaska International was described in *Parapolitics* (March 1982).

It all looks as though Sir Tom and Fahey were conniving to set up an airline that they hoped would win contracts from the CIA. A few months ago such a suggestion would have seemed quite absurd, but since the Fiji coup it is easy to envisage contingencies when the CIA might use a small local airline to move US paramilitary forces, fake Libyans, or "Soviet" arms caches. The Linkrusd proposal involved scheduled services to 'American' Samoa and 'French' Polynesia and "unplanned but possible charters... anywhere." Just what the CIA needed.

The Honolulu loan-scam Cook islands Involvement

The Cook islands Government was also involved with Max Raepple and the so-called Maori Loan Affair, which, as described in the March 1987 *NZMR*, involved Honolulu businessmen with BBRD&W/CIA connections trying to sign up the NZ Minister of Maori Affairs for a fake loan carrying an enormous finder's fee. Several of the Honolulu conspirators were also involved in a consortium called URTEC, which, it turns out, also has two members in the Cooks, none other than BBRD&W/CIA operators Reuben Tyler and Don Beach (according to the December 1986 membership list).

Even more significant some of the preparations for the loan-scam were undertaken in the Cooks. These involved the scam's front man, Michael Gisondi, and Max Raepple who supposedly represented the mythical Middle East money source. These two supposedly did no know each other, but operated through an intermediary who turns out to be the probable current CIA chief of station, Honolulu.. In fact the two had already been operating together about 6 months earlier when they visited the Cooks together to sign up Sir Tom for a US$12 mn fake loan. The document signed by



Sir Tom formed part of the 'credentials' which Raepple wanted to show to David Lange but not to anyone else in January 1987.

Obviously Sir Tom was not so stupid as to sign these documents in expectation of real money eventuating. Reuben Tyler must have known Gisondi through URTEC, and known of the other conspirators through common involvement in URTEC and the BBRD&W debacle. Tyler and Davis were both on the Cook Islands Monetary Board. Sir Tom probably knew those documents were intended only to be used in a scam somewhere else.

Ironically the scam intended to bring Lange down instead helped to bring Davis down. In early July in response to a parliamentary question Davis denied ever signing any documents for Raepple. Two days later a letter was tabled in which Sir Tom had appointed Raepple "as an agent of the Cook Islands Government for purposes of raising loans from OPEC or Arab... institutions". Geof Henry, Leader of the Opposition, laid a formal complaint of breach of parliamentary privilege with the speaker. But before the complaint could be heard, the 29 July vote of no confidence removed Sir Tom from the prime ministership.

Was Sir Tom working for the US Government?

Regardless of whether or not Davis did mindbending research for the CIA, whether Ed Kelly recruited Davis for the CIA,and whether InterAir was intended to be a CIA airline, Sir Tom Davis has consistently acted to support US, French, and nuclear interests in the South Pacific.

He has played an important role in the Anzus debate. He threatened to go neutral because "New Zealand arguments with the US over Anzus and with France over the Rainbow Warrior put the Cook Islands in a difficult position." He opposed the NZ 'Joint Venture' military exercise (*NZMR* September 1986) "because it gave the illusion that the New Zealand forces were capable of defending us". As for New Zealand's nuclear-free policy, he has "no time for symbolic gestures against one's own allies". Sir Tom's support has been appreciated by Washington. *Defense* Secretary Weinberger said he admired the stand Davis had taken on the US-NZ dispute, "I realise it took political

courage" (CIN 10 Sep 86). Secretary of State Schultz also expressed appreciation for the concern the Cook Islands had shown over recent difficulties between the US and NZ (CIN 13 Sept 86). Davis' assistance in damping down debate on the (probably) US submarine in Cook Island waters in February 1986 has already been described in *NZMR* (Oct 86).

Sir Tom frequently acts as apologist for French nuclear testing. He sponsored the French attempt to get into the South Pacific Forum. He visits Tahiti, all expenses paid by France. He hosts armed French troops in Constitution Day parades, and he has encouraged French aid and capital penetration of the Cook's economy.

Sir Tom is a firm advocate of nuclear power - "It is a gift from God, for heaven's sake, a gift to the world. If there was a (nuclear) package available that could provide energy for people in the Cook Islands, I'd put one on every island."

The sort of levels Sir Tom operates at are well illustrated by a trip he made in July last year to show his dislike for the NZ Joint Venture exercise. Just before he left he had private talks with US Ambassador Paul Cleveland, who flew in on one flight, stayed a couple of nights, and flew out on the next flight. Sir Tom went to France was hosted at a state dinner by Prime Minister Chirac and had private talks with the French Foreign Minister. He then spent a week in Israel at the invitation of the Israeli PM. Who knows what anti-NZ dirty work was discussed at those meetings?

Cyclone Sally in the New Year 1987 provided an opportunity for more US and French activity in the Cooks. The French sent in the Foreign Legion, who, as things turned out, didn't go down well with the locals. Legionnaires complained in one village that things would go faster if the locals would pull finger and help, and in another village the French were told to get out of the way and piss off. The US was much more slick. In a frank acknowledgement that image-building is what disaster-relief is all about, the US sent in a 16-man military team to rebuild the tourist centre, and 3 military photographers and a PR officer to record them doing it. Paul Cleveland flew up to cut the ribbon.

Was Sir Tom recruited by the CIA?

CIA activity is designed to be covert, and even if it ceases to be covert it is still usually deniable. We are unlikely to ever get solid evidence one way or the other for Sir Tom working for the CIA.

By 1982 the US saw the South Pacific as getting out of US control. They started moving into Fiji trade unions, and they setup the BBRD&W front in the Cooks. Unforeseen contingencies had to be planned for, and so Fahey was encouraged to set up a cargo airline which the CIA could charter if it ever needed to.

Sir Tom, however, has overplayed his role, and has been kicked out. We can only hope that those who succeed him will govern with the interests of the Cook Islands more at heart than they were with Sir Tom.

Editorial Comment

The JOURNAL offers the following review of Owen Wilkes' article which offers the frightening thesis that our country's government, direction of policy, and economic development for the last ten years have been run by foreign spies.

This may be one of the rare occasions when it seems quite in order to go below the belt and aim at the writer or writers rather than the issues.

It's an old Cook Islands habit. And not a very pleasant one. But it would be unfair to Davis to do otherwise.

Owen Wilkes, the accredited author, gives sparse information about his sources.

Yet at least two CIs. writers possess handwritten material virtually word for word as per the NZMR review and coming from the same source that Wilkes has used.

Neither of us have ever used the material although we obviously found it intriguing and, in the words of the source, "the draft of a great political novel".

We didn't use because the stuff was guesswork, conjecture and, as it stood, unacceptable professionally.

A second Wilkes' source once spread himself over a full page ad [illegible] which approached the hysterical in its fury at a translation of the Flosse Government foreign policy stances.

"Dirty Work in the Cooks" - an article which buries the reputation of the greatest modern Cook Islands achiever in a deep deep pit of innuendo, smear and dubiously authenticated gossip.

The sources, unfortunately, cannot be divorced from the seriously alarming story they tell.

Mrs. Mal Kernahan held a post "upstairs" in 1983 during the brief Geoffrey Henry-led CIP administration of that year. She did general writing and PR.

Following the change of government, the Henry political appointments (led by John Scott and Mata Taruia) moved on...with a professional and political maturity which brought credit upon them and the administration they served.

Sir Thomas Davis.... experimenter on conscripts, monkeys and beagles and general all-purpose CIA spy ?

Mrs. Kernahan stayed on. She and her husband were vocal in their criticism of aspects of US foreign policy. She wrote various local mildly liberal pieces and contributed to Greg Hoepper's private weekly VIEWPOINT.

Eventually, her work permit ran out. Dr. Davis, then PM, says that he exercised his normal right not to renew a foreigner's work permit if she was occupying a position which could be filled by a citizen. Mrs. Kernahan says she was victimised. "Upstairs" sources say she should have learnt to move on like the rest of the "Henry team".

After leaving the country with a lengthy VIEWPOINT attack on David and his PR team, Mrs. Kernahan returned to the USA. She appears to have devoted a great deal of her time to a self-developed thesis of conspiracy and has taken many an opportunity to publish anti-Davis articles on a range of issues. At times, these (such as the Islands Business article on Press Freedom in Rarotonga of 1985) have re-hashed aging local issues which have at least one alternative explanation to the conclusions drawn by the writer.

Mrs Kernahan's overall thesis regarding the alleged Davis/Tylor/Short conspiracy are alarming to an extent that all of us who live, work and die under CIs governments are entitled to know as much as possible about the author.

In Mrs. Kernahan's case, her writings on Davis would be deemed by many an impartial observer to be written possibly in malice. No local paper could publish them without risk of a defamation suit.

She appears obsessed and with far less cause than many who have no existence possible outside the frontiers controlled by whatever government is in power in the Cook Islands.

Ironically, the greatest interest Mrs. Kernahan's writings on Davis has aroused is among the white and brown commercial classes who have profited most from the Davis era.

To the estimated 95% Maori-speaking community, her thesis of conspiracy appears irrelevant - which is a pity...if it has substance!

Similarly unknown to the overwhelming majority of the people is widely-acclaimed Pacific writer, NZer David Robie.

A similar case exists for estimating Robie to be as obsessed about his specialist conspiracy (the French Connection) as Kernahan is about Davis.

Robie symbolises a NZ-Australia media group for whom the Pacific is their Lebanon, its politicians their Nixons, its conspiracies their Watergates.

None of it is for the masses in the Pacific who can't obtain their work or read their articles if they could afford the high-priced glossies they often write for or the short wave receivers they broadcast over.

It is all for the maw of what Norman Mailer characterises as "The Goat"...the great open cavernous gob of western mass media.

Instant, thrill-a-minute muck from the banana republics... reinforcing the old old image of corruption, incompetence and inferiority on the part of the silly brown twits out there pretending to be able to run things.

It's not what the Robies and the Wilkes' and the Kernahans et al intend, of course. But they are inextricably part of the structure of Western media. As specialists they occupy a role they perform a role. If they weren't around, someone else would have to be found to do it for them. Their readers need re-assurance that crooks and idiots rule the third world.

So a case will undoubtedly be made out among our leaders under fire that anything using Kernahan and Robie on the subject of Davis and France can be dismissed.

The one makes a living out of linking Davis to the CIA, the other is an anti-French specialist making a good living out of being tops in his field of specialisation.

Publishing either of them could be seen to be supporting malice by those who have total control over the destinies of those of us with nowhere else to go.

So why risk it ? There's plenty of weddings and haircuttings around. And the Rugby League season is coming up.

Well,. there is Owen Wilkes. He's not professionally anti-anything, he claims.

He does military research and, he told me, it's not his fault if the facts all point one way!

He is a full-timer on a small grant. In no way, from the look of him here and his lifestyle, could he be accused of being out to make money or, from his tone, to seek revenge or promote himself as a specialist.

And he is in a field where there are some pretty powerful forces at work determined to prevent him from obtaining facts. Hence, a reasonable level of conjecture has to be accepted.

All the same, there is the question of whom he is serving. Greenpeace to whom he is linked by association (like Davis and the CIA) declares lofty motives on behalf of ALL MANKIND, no less. And now, loaded to the gunwhales with francs and spiritually skippered by their very own martyr can proceed apace to save us all.
Wilkes, presumably,serves ALL MANKIND, too and therefore the purpose of his article is:

*to cause trouble for Davis and his mates

*to ally his solid reputation for determined research and scholarship to the journalistic causes of Mrs. Kernahan and Mr. Robie.(which will mean he has performed a special service for Mrs. Kernahan).

*to re-assure the converted in New Zealand that all is as they suspected it was.

In all these, he has been successful.

If his aim was the quixotic one of giving information to the Cook Islands people, he has only partially succeeded. We shall complete the job for him in respect for what we believe are his laudable motives.
He has failed in so far as everyone has heard all Mel Kernahan's CIA novels featuring Tricky Dick Davis before and Tricky Dick remains Papa Tom on the touchline at Avatiu to most people.

He has failed in so far as most of our people regard, in our experience, such stuff as one pack of noisy papa'as sounding off at another lot.

For the point that Mr. Wilkes, Mr. Robie, Mrs Kernahan and others continually seem to miss is that, out here on the makatea

Papa Arapati....

"Set up" by the CIA. "Money not laundered well!"....hints from author Wilkes.

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their enemies are not our enemies.

An old colonial trick is to con the natives into unthinking support for THE ENEMY!

That way, Cook Islanders once died joining in the tribal war up north against Germany.

So, maybe the CIA is very very very very bad. Like France. And Flosse. And Reuben Tylor. And Tom Davis. And Don Beach. And so forth.

To you.

But to most of us, the USA has given the country a fair bit of help, France keeps relatives in Tahiti rich enough to send us some remittances, Flosse and Davis are Polynesian leaders who have introduced real money to the Cook Islands for the first time in its history. Reuben Tylor pleasant sort of white Mangaian who regularly loses to Trevor Clarke (freedom of the press, Reuben, honest!) and Don Beach was the little bloke with the aging dolly who got the mamas some maire money a few years back.

If they're all a pack of villains, they're ### ### ########

So, by and large, we take the spin-off benefits of the structure as they filter down through the layers of bombs, wars, conspiracies, Flosses. Davises and Reuben Tylors.
Because NZ had 80 odd years to offer something else.

And totally failed.

As acceptable scholarship, Mr. Wilkes article is atrocious.

He would probably accept that judgment and, indeed, hints as much in a postscript claiming that the NZMR article is but part of a larger work.

At the heart of the work is Sir Thomas Davis.

This is not the Tom Davis who came up through a Cook Islands village school to become the first Cook Islander to obtain degree status.

Nor is it the Tom Davis who battled alongside Albert Henry to redress labour exploitation by NZ administrators and businesses.

Nor is it the Tom Davis to whom workers in the forties and fifties turned instinctively to in order to fight for better working conditions and pay among the working classes in Auckland, Makatea and Avarua.

Nor is it Dr. Tom Davis who was the first to alter the appalling traditional birth conditions of Cook Islands babies and give Cook Islands mothers and babies a survival chance better than that offered them by Britain or NZ.

It is not either Dr. Thomas Davis, the first Cook Islander ever to achieve equal to papa'as at the highest level at their own game.

Nor even is it, except in a passing derogatory comment, the Tom whom Cook Islands opposition leaders welcomed back to lead the first organised opposition to the excesses of the first Albert Henry regimes.

No. None of these.

It is Tricky Tom, the US spy who is characterised, caracatured and condemned by association, innuendo ans speculation.

It is really not good enough and would be sent back by the editor in a NZ magazine if it centred upon a NZ or even white western leader. Sent back for something more than guesswork.

It is a smear and debases Owen Wilkes' work.

Two Cook Islands writers, neither of whom has any cause to love Tom Davis, have refused to print the same Kernahan novel disguised as reportage and appearing as CIP propaganda.

Having made the JOURNAL position clear, it is nevertheless imperative now to sift through the muck and find any pebbles of verifiable truth. Otherwise, thanks to Owen Wilkes' sub-editor, Tom Davis who saved lives in a humane society is cheaply branded with the detested sobriquet of a murderous despot in the world's poorest and most disease-ridden island.

Sifting through the half-truths, guesswork and "straw men" (...'if it is correct that Davis was hired as a potential PM by the CIA etc...') is a laborious task.

Wilkes would be sent off to his tutor for a serious discussion as to whether he ought perhaps not try another field if he offered such stuff as '...if it is correct that Davis was hired as a potential PM by the CIA...' as serious research.

By the same token, one can equally presume a counter operation being mounted by the KGB. '...if it is correct that Wilkes was recruited by case officer Kernahan as a potential destabiliser of the Davis coalition by the KGB.....etc'.

And when one has sifted through, one is left with nothing that Mel Kernahan hasn't offered Cook Islands writers before. She's a good journalist and presumably will be back in a position to exact revenge on all if and when the CIP's get back.

Until then, we can only regret that a sympathetic researcher such as Owen Wilkes is prepared to give his name to the draft of an out of date novel.

If the task of opposition is to reduce all to personalities (and Mr. Ingram at least has proved very succe-

(SEE PAGE 11)

Vanilla

KELLY: up to you

LEFT: French Polynesia's Minister of Agriculture, Georges Kelly.

FAR LEFT: Te Enui/Mapumai MP & Vanilla Chairman Mariri Paratainga.

As stated in the JOURNAL (No. 14), a reply would be sought to allegations made against M. Georges Kelly, Minister of Agriculture in the Government of French Polynesia and brother of JOURNAL owner, Terupe Kelly.

The late September visit of Tahitian entrepreneur Charles Lehartel, publicised by CI News as a visit to meet landowners of the current experiemntal plot in Atiu for the multi-million dollar Vanilla Project, resulted in a stop-over flight by M. Lehartel during which he addressed a mass meeting of landowners involved in the Project.

Following the meeting, reports were made to the JOURNAL that members of a three-man team to Tahiti in September (MP Mariri Parataingа, Island Councillor Tere Ponini and Agriculture Officer Upoko Simpson) had not received good hospitality or help from the Tahitian Government during their visit.

It was further reported that M. Lehartel had alleged that he was not involving the Tahitian Government any more in the Project.

The general content of the reports was confirmed to us after checking with a very high source.

On his recent visit to Rarotonga as part of the Flosse delegation, M. Kelly replied to alleged criticism of him and his Ministry made in his absence in Atiu.

"My Ministry was unaware of the Mariri Parataingа party visit until the last moment," M. Kelly told our representative.

"They were met at the airport and taken to the home of M. Thomas Estall, the Ministry of Agriculture's Vanilla Officer. His is a fine house. It was considered useful for the party to stay with Mr. Estall to arrange their programme."

"Meanwhile the Ministry arranged to pick up Mr. Parataingа and place him in a hotel as is normal with our hospitality to visiting dignitaries and is well known."

"When the Ministry car went to pick up Mr. Parataingа, it was reported that the whole party had been taken off by M. Lehartel who, it was said, had taken charge of them."

"From that time, apparently with M. Lehartel and their concurrence, they were looked after by him."

M. Kelly reacted to reports that M. Lehartel had dropped the Tahitian Government from his Project by saying, "if that is his wish, he may have to look elsewhere for his vanilla plants and may be held accountable to Government for the cost of materials to date and the experts who have been used from my Ministry."

An indication of the extent of the confusion existing in many areas of the Vanilla Project logistics and its legal standing to date was experienced by JOURNAL owner Ms. Terupe Kelly.

Earlier this year, Ms Kelly's kopu tangata meeting awarded her a half acre housing site a mere 20m. from the Vanilla Experimentation plot.

The kopu tangata, which includes Vanilla Corporation Secretary Ngatamariki, Deputy Island Council Chairman Mariri Nio and Fellow Councillor Tere Ponini were apparently unaware that the land belonged to the Incorporation. They signed the necessary papers and the site went through the Land Court process in September and was awarded to Ms. Kelly.

Upon checking, after reading the JOURNAL articles researched by our staff, she discovered that her site did appear to be part of the 10 blocks incorporated by the High Court in 1984 and hence the family had no right to award housing sites as the land did not belong to them any more but to the Vanilla Corporation (and eventually through lease presumably) for 35 years!

Tahitian Ministry of Agriculture Technical Adviser advises on technical aspects of Vanilla production during Minister Kelly's last visit.

"No,"said the family, "the land is ours and the High Court has given it to you."

A confused Ms. Kelly travelled to Rarotonga to see MP Norman George who had left a standing offer to assist the family on legal affairs.

Mr. George could not be contacted, so Ms Kelly went to see Mrs. Tina Browne, lawyer for her family (and, ironically, Charles Lehartel).

Mrs. Browne assured Ms. Kelly that the land was hers as awarded by the High Court.

A happy Ms Kelly returned to Atiu.

A puzzled JOURNAL returned to Mrs. Browne the following week to get its apparent misunderstanding sorted out.

The details were spelled out to Mrs. Browne who noted that she had notcompletely seen Ms. Kelly's problem but now agreed with the JOURNAL that the land indeed did belong to the Vanilla Incorporation and that the High Court had been in error.

Ms. Kelly has now been advised to seek six or seven signatures to a letter from the Vailla Committee to the High Court asking them to exclude her site from the Incorporated land. The signatures include some who had on several occasions told her that the land was not incorporated at all!

But....maybe she can now get the necessary letter and start to build on the land inherited from her mother and grandfather.

(Remember! It is the GRANDCHILDREN, the Vanilla Project is supposed to be setting up!)

Aha....her JOURNAL advice (correct, last time) offers a warning.

The committee she is now required to approach (even if, after all the fuss THEY have creted, are willing to sign) do not appear to us to have legal standing. Their term was limited by the High Court to two years. They ceased to function in 1986. They have not held an AGM, nor presented minutes, nor appointed an auditor, nor gone through any of the formalities the Cook Islands Registrar of Societies requires them to do. She needs either to prevent them attempting tosign the land over to Ledarco Inc. by injunction or to seek further legal advice as to whether an apparently "non-legal" committee can effect a "legal" house site alteration to the Incorporation.

She states that she has so far spent nearly $1500 on the problems associated with the house site and can afford no more costs.

She and her family are currently considering

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the only alternative - leave Atiu and the land which her grandfather told her (to quote the CI News quote from Mariri Paratainga) "can never be taken away from you."

JOURNAL COMMENT:

Ms Kelly's involved and confusing problem is one of several we have been approached with by "little people".

Most involve:

1. The meaning of Incorporation.

2. Whether they can take their land back any time they want to.

3. Protection for house sites and access.

4. The latest lease terms.

We have dealt with Ms. Kelly's in detail as an example. We could have dealt with others we have received but hers is the easiest verifiable and, under no stretch of the imagination can she be accused as others, just as legitimate we believe, have been of "trouble-making" "non-Atiuanness" or "playing politics".

There IS confusion. Our sources often state that it is being caused by Mr. Paratainga. Having spoken to Mr. Paratainga, we believe there is no sinsiter motivation behind any of the MP's actions. He believes that after six years of prevarication, someone has to "crack the whip" a bit and get things moving "for the good of all the people."

He has a majority support, we sense, for this view.

Unfortunately, we believe the minority have the right to both be in the Project AND to have their land treated in the only proper Atiu Way - by the legal process. Atiu is not Mangaia and the Societies Act and the Land Court ARE the Atiu Way and the only ultimate protection for the unborn 35 years from now. As Ms Kelly has found out, HER grandfather may have thought he was leaving something for his grandchildren. In fact, he AND the paternal one in Rarotonga did a thoroughly ill-advised job on his grandchildren's land. From,-in both cases, being major landholders, their family is left after two generations with virtually nothing.

In search of a positive solution to the Vanilla confusion, some have suggested that Mrs. Browne, a highly respected Maori lawyer act for both sides and set the whole thing up (procedures, conduct of the committee, leases etc in Maori)

As a further gesture of support from this paper, we shall be publishing next week, the first of a series by regional and world authroities on the operation of developing nation co-operatives and incorporations,

Take it or leave it. We've had enough of Vanilla and, until fresh news in the public interest, are closing the issue (barring letters etc).

Two points to end with:

Legal advice we have taken states that the new lease contract is standard and can safely be signed if the money involved is felt satisfactory.....BUT

If there is a new party("foreign partner") to the lease as rumpured he/she/it must be identified and the person's credentials approved by the landowner's as a whole and the Government/Monetary Board etc.

Secondly, to clarify M. Kelly's position. He states that his involvement is, as stated in an earlier issue of the JOURNAL, to help the Atiu people grow vanilla.....themselves. If they wish to, his Ministry is prepared to help them become Vanilla planters. If, however, they wish to become land leasers, that is up to them.

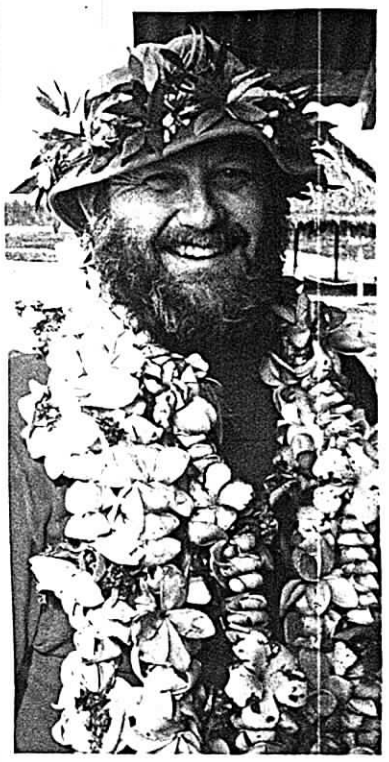
M. Kelly's offer, dating from 1985, has one flaw..

In 1983, the CIs. government signed a Heads of Agreement with Mr. Lehartel giving him sole right to export vanilla for a period which will expire long after the current planters are dead!

A feature of the 1980's has, of course, been that, whatever lip-service is paid to our Agriculture, the development policies of all major political groupings mean that it is more profitable to lease land to foreigners than to work it locally.

They could be right.

What to Listen For



An informative and popular Scientific team which left Atiu last week was the David Steadman (above) group from the USA.

Among the useful local spin-offs from the team was an active interest created our schoolchildren.

Following talks at the College, a far greater understanding among young students was created regarding the superb inheritance of native birds.

What to watch out for and what to listen for when attempting to identify birds was a common question asked.

Several children now have developed keener ears as they attempt to pick out the different birds.

Said one student, "It helps to pass the time on the way to and from the plantation!"

The team's work was watched with interest by our Science Correspodent Dr. Roger Malcolm who has prepared for next week's issue a summary of what work was accomplished and what results were obtained.

I KNOW-TERE

Planter and Island Councillor Tere Ponini, one of the party of three Atiuan agriculturalists who recently visited Tahiti for Vanilla instruction, spoke to the JOURNAL last week about his experiences and alleged poor hospitality.

"I know the full story," he said, "because, of course, I was there."

Tere's story of the trip matched in major details the account given us by Georges Kelly (above).

However, the local planter, who was accompanied by Atiu Agriculture Officer Upoko Simpson and MP Mariri Paratainga, said that the accommodation offered him at the Tahitian Vanilla site was not, in his view, very satisfactory

He added that he had enjoyed himself and had learned a lot which will be of value

Tere Ponini... Replying to the JOURNAL about his Tahiti trip.

support Atiu business

ssful at doing that), then the Wilkes article will be most damaging.

It enables a malicious opponent to indulge in a spot of smearing of their own. It also offers to CIP's the restoration of Albert Henry (himself victim of many a smear) to hero status.

Albert's less than pleasant later leadership and the bullying, frequently drunken, terror tactics used by some of his middle and low level supporters against opponents (which overseas commentators in their ignorance do not realise was the root of the real viciousness of the regime in the experience of many who talk of those days.....these are all airily dismissed as "while admitting, Albert may have had his faults."

Finbar Kenny's "nominal fine" was, according to inside sources, the result of the (frequent) use of plea bargaining in the States. Mr. Wilkes sees the sinister finger of CIA in the Kenny pie!

Lawyer Reuben Tylor appears as an ongoing "suspect" given no right of reply and branded as something

never quite clear, but definitiely sort of suspicious.

His brother-in-law Iaveta Short is similarly treated.

What is a fact is that both have made a lot of international contacts and presumably some are "hush-hush".

It is also a fact that this paper has no liking for our economy being propped up by an operation of as dubious an international standing as offshore banking.

But it is also a fact that both political parties support the policy and that the only way of operating it demands deep secrecy.

It is also a fact that all the characters in the Wilkes/Kernahan "best-seller" are public figures of unblemished public reputation.

They are led to the dock, accused in a blend of smear and guilt by association, and sentenced to the "Scottish" verdict of not proven - hinting that they really are guilty but we can't prove it!

The JOURNAL suggests to readers that it is one thing to be opposed to the economic policies of the Demos and the Coalition in several areas, as we are. It is quite another matter to conduct a public hanging of respected public figures in a foreign country.

It makes our job in establishing a credible role for the press in our own country that much more difficult.

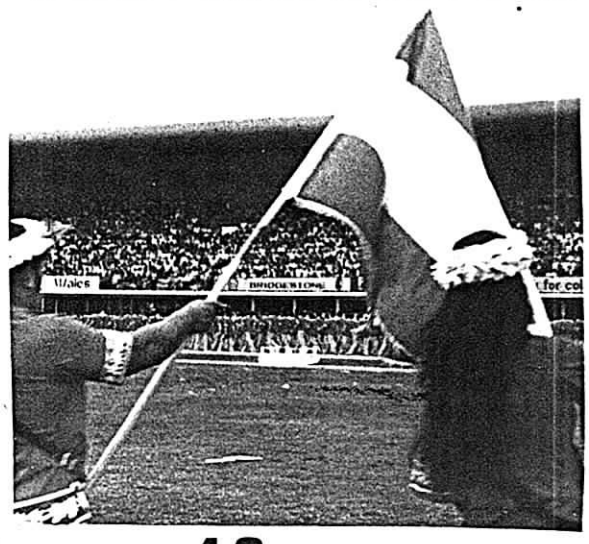
ACCORDING TO THIS EVIDENCE.....

NOT GUILTY!

...and that means NOT guilty.

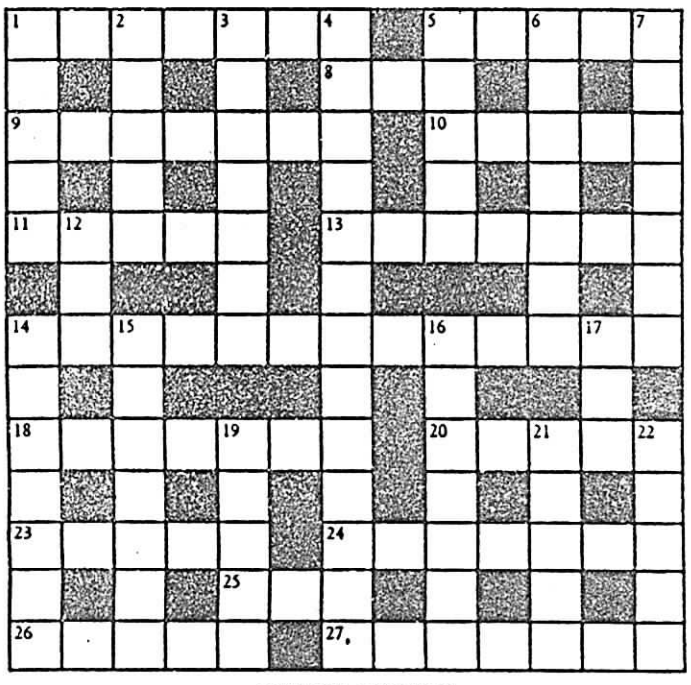
But as consolation for those who still wake up screaming in the night at the thought of the nation in peril from the CIA, the memory of 007 Don Beach reporting to 'M' Tylor on the latest penetration into the Mitiaro Maire Mamas Union...could could assist in restoring tranquillity.

THE GAMES—



Question marks in plenty

ith less than a couple of months to go, the odds are increasingly on either a vastly depleted South Pacific Games in Noumea or a cancellation. The alternative Tahitian venue option was not taken up when there was a chance to shift. CISOA President Hugh Henry has been at the heart of the Cook Islands debate and so far has said we will go. Our most serious reason would be be, we feel, to return the support given by New Caledonia to the Mini-Games. The JOURNAL does NOT support participation, however and next week will explain why. (Above: French solidarity.. Tahiti watch the Caledonian march past in 1979)



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 An elephant might have one to keep cool (7)
5 Half-hose (5)
8 Lubricate (3)
9 Symbol used to express a number (7)
10 Enclosure for sports events (5)
11 Miserable person who hoards wealth (5)
13 Watch with numbers and no hands (7)
14 Do something wrong without being discovered (3, 4, 4, 2)
18 Ancestry (7)
20 Method of restarting play in rugby (5)
23 Concur (5)
24 Ate too much (7)
25 And not (3)
26 Moist, damp (5)
27 Walks unsteadily (7)

DOWN

1 A note (5)
2 Deposits rubbish (5)
3 Group that man plane (3-4)
4 Place to stay for annual break (7, 6)
5 Jargon (5)
6 Fast wild cat (7)
7 Young film actress (7)
12 Anger (3)
14 Giant killed by David (7)
15 Outburst of bad temper (7)
16 Examine closely (7)
17 Signed document acknowledging debt (3)
19 Change for the better (5)
21 Firearm (5)
22 Legendary king with the golden touch (5)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 14

Training

Journalists

The JOURNAL/TIANARA is the fastest growing paper in the country. It is also very much a part of Atiu's Development - new Atiu...leading the new Outer Islands in the personal development of our people.

Have YOU considered a career in Journalism ? Writers, artists, reporters in either of our two languages, typists, photographers, researchers, printers. The world of journalism is a huge one.

The Journalism we offer is the most exciting in the country. It is independent.

The JOURNAL offers immediate training FREE for any Atiuan interested in a career in any aspect of journalism.

Come and see us. You can help us, we can point you on the road to a fine career.

Did Dr. Robati confirm the details as they were given in the article ?

-reply cut off

Did Dr. Robati confirm that everything suggested in the article happened as it was described.

"To the best of my recollection."

Was the call recorded ?

-no reply.

It would have been unfair to make too many judgments at that stage as the line did not lend itself to lengthy discussion. But, we were suspicious.

After re-examining the text, we rang the hotel mentioned, the "Clock Hotel, Surry Hills, Sydney."

The Atiu operator having secured a good clear line, we were able to note that there was no "Clock Hotel" in Surry Hills (so much for TRUTH accuracy!) but there was one in Crown Street under a new number.

The manager was friendly, frank and keen to assist.

"Yes," he knew of the incident.

"No," he had not witnessed it because he was away at the time but had thoroughly found out for himself what happened.

And was it as described in TRUTH.

"No way. That article was completely wrong."

And things were...

"Things were NOT as described in the article. In no way."

Could you repeat that ?

"It was NOT as described."

(Thank you etc.
Not at all and best wishes to you all out there!)

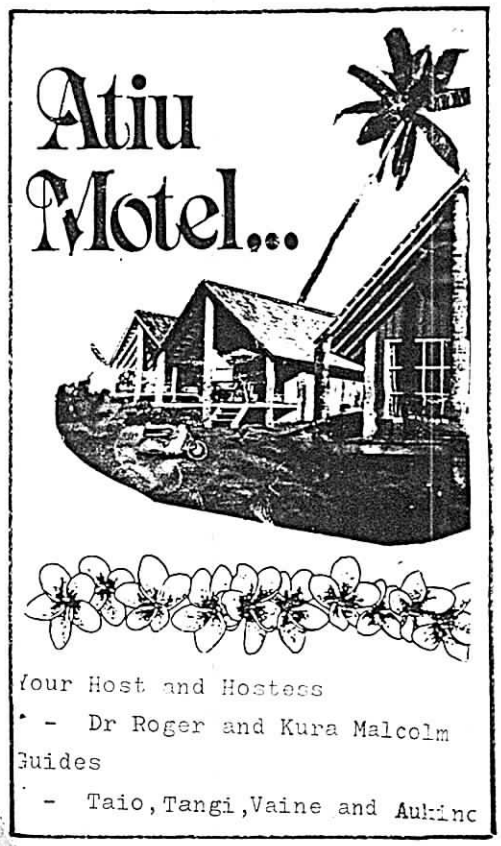
The JOURNAL closes its books on the case at that point.

TRUTH's motives or those of Ms Withers and the mysterious stringer or agent or whatever are of no interest to us. Maybe to Aussies. And maybe to Dr. Robati's lawyers.

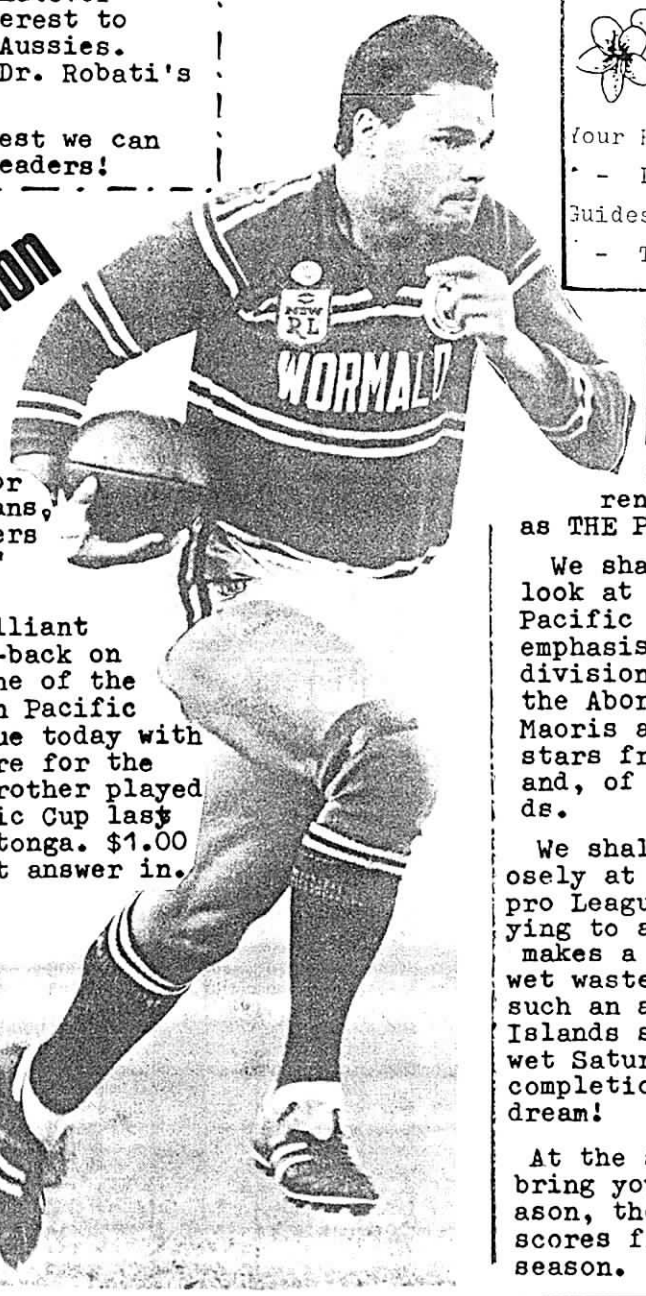
That's the best we can do for you, readers!

Sport

Owing to limitations on space this issue, many of our regular features have had to be set aside for a week to make room for the two major investigative features hitting us at the last moment.



Competition



Here's one for all League fans, whether players or just "box" watchers.

Name the brilliant running full-back on the right, one of the best backs in Pacific Islands league today with a great future for the Kiwis. His brother played in the Pacific Cup last year in Rarotonga. $1.00 first correct answer in.

Among the postponents is our planned look into several of the aspects of the "Fast One" which is making Rugby League renowned the world over as THE Pacific Game.

We shall be taking a close look at the big star names in Pacific League with a special emphasis one the three broad divisions in the Pacific game- the Aboriginals, the NZ Maoris and the Pacific Islands stars from Tonga, Samoa, Niue and, of course, the Cook Islands.

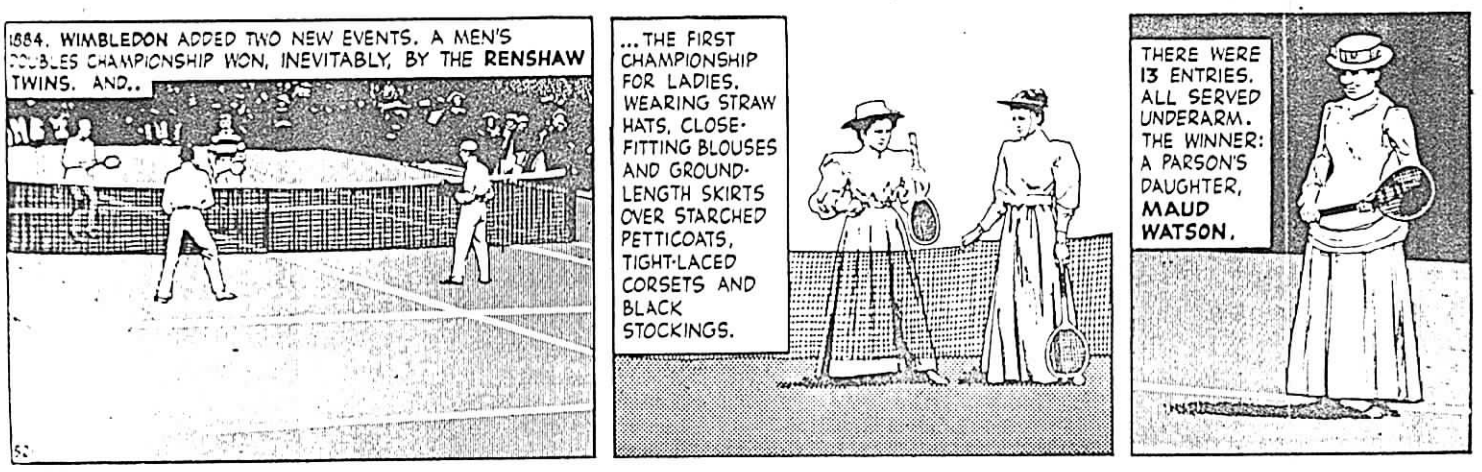
We shall also be looking closely at the centre of world pro League - Australia and trying to assess what it is that makes a game born in the cold wet wastes of Northern England such an all-star attraction to Islands sportsmen for whom a wet Saturday in Wigan is the completion of a lifetime's dream!

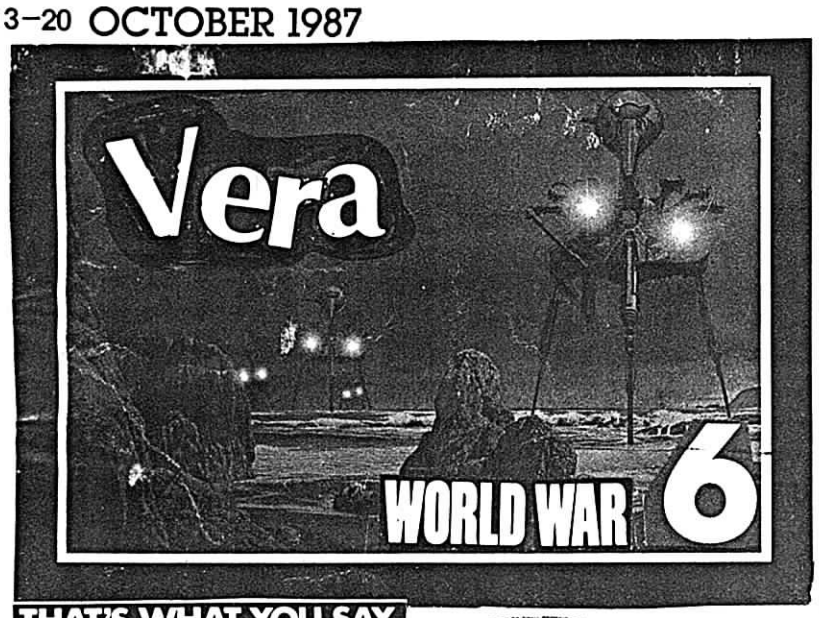
At the same time, we hope to bring you throughout the season, the latest news and scores from the Rarotonga season.

Finally, rounding up this brief survey of the League scene comes flash news from John Rasmussen, national coach in Rarotonga, that in November the Cook Islands will be visited by current Kiwi coach, John Gordon whose career as a world renowned coach has been flourishing with recent Kiwi test results.

First Ladies champion

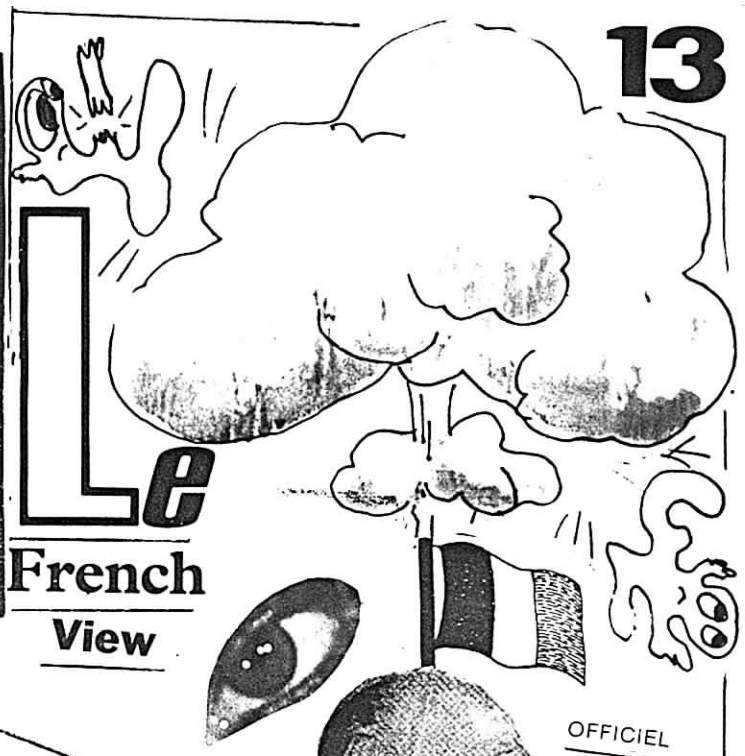
(Continuing our Series on the History of the Game)


1884. WIMBLEDON ADDED TWO NEW EVENTS. A MEN'S DOUBLES CHAMPIONSHIP WON, INEVITABLY, BY THE RENSHAW TWINS. AND..
...THE FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP FOR LADIES, WEARING STRAW HATS, CLOSE-FITTING BLOUSES AND GROUND-LENGTH SKIRTS OVER STARCHED PETTICOATS, TIGHT-LACED CORSETS AND BLACK STOCKINGS.
THERE WERE 13 ENTRIES. ALL SERVED UNDERARM. THE WINNER: A PARSON'S DAUGHTER, MAUD WATSON.



3
2
1

Le French View

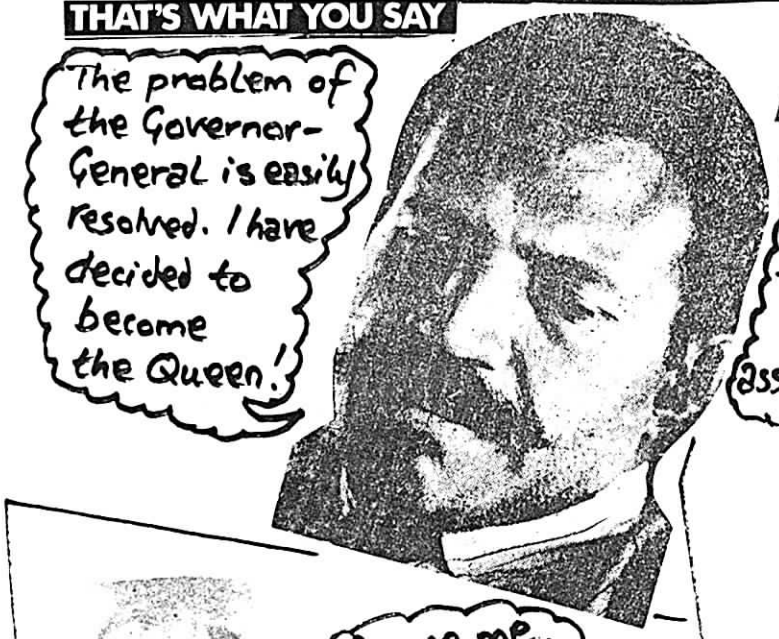


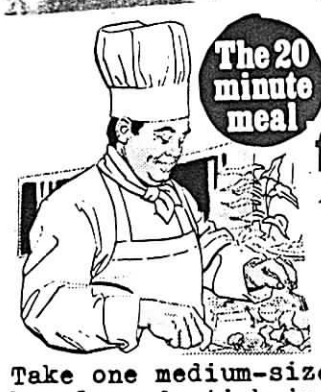
OFFICIEL

UP VOUS

Mon God quel tres grand coq-up! Je refers of course to les incroyables scenes dans le Sydney pub et le absolument sensational revelations de l'abominable anglo-saxon con Oven Bilkes about mon esteemed ex-colleague of le tres long official lunches, le Seigneur DOM-TOM RIP. Je would never have belived that le hand je shook so many times at le departure lounge at Orly was le tres same hand what dispatched un zillion conscripts to le deep freeze et un similar zillion monkeys to le ghastly far-off Pluto et back. To say rien de son habit of shooting les wild beagles up with le appalling LSD. Un can never tell, kan un ? Si only je had known il was un dab hand avec le ghastly experiments je could have passed him on un few revolting kanaks qui reming me un peu of beagles, especiallement quand ils yap about le human black rights et si forth. Ah bien. Jamais mind. As pour le unfortunate Sugar Ray Robbery je advise il in le future to do like je et take along un's own stripper. F.

THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY


The problem of the Governor-General is easily resolved. I have decided to become the Queen!
I was Tom Davis' lab assistant
Excuse me, I'm looking for a Mr. Reuben Tylor. I understand he recruits people!
I was Tom Davis' beagle catcher
Right lads, now I want you to think of yourselves as a sort of Avarua Mongrel Mob!
If he tells you to get into the fridge... DON'T!



family meal

13 BEAGLE STROGONOFF A LA TOM.

1. Take one medium-sized beagle and stick in freezer.
2. Freeze at -128 degrees for six months, occasionally opening door to test whether nicely stiffening.
3. Remove and dismember lightly. Should snap easily into bite sized chunks.
4. Sprinkle with LSD to taste.

(NEXT WEEK: GIBBON FRICASSEE)

Solution Seventeen

ACROSS: 1 Mudbath; 5 Socks; 8 Oil; 9 Numeral; 10 Arena; 11 Miser; 13 Digital; 14 Get away with it; 18 Lineage; 20 Scrum; 23 Agree; 24 Overfed; 25 Nor; 26 Humid; 27 Totters.

DOWN: 1 Minim; 2 Dumps; 3 Air-crew; 4 Holiday resort; 5 Slang; 6 Cheetah; 7 Starlet; 12 Ire; 14 Goliath; 15 Tantrum; 16 Inspect; 17 [illegible]; 18 [illegible]; 19 [illegible]; 21 [illegible]; 22 [illegible]

OCTOBER 1987

vera

World War 6 coalition interruptus

FROM PAGE 1

STruth WEEKEND

iraveels all, Blue!

Well, strike me, sport, there I was just strolling on down past the Security Council Offices keepin' an eye out for the odd passing film producer when who should lean out of the 98th storey but ole Kev, the drongo what fixes up all the Ambassador's extra-murals see. Come on up, he shouts. Is there any film producers up there I answers back. No, he says, but there's about 16 heads of government all having a nosh. So, quick as a roo i slips into me sequin-studded, angel dust crotch clinger with the daring cut outs for the boobs to poke thro an' in I marched with a bit of a croon on the lips and sits meself down on the lap of this Russian looking joker all happy as a jumbuk. Hows yer didgeree doo, I says. And he ups and smashes me one across the kisser with his briefcase and tells his offsider to shoot me. 'Ta-in't right, blue.

IT'S OOOOOOOOOOOO!!! Today!

Donna (I wanna be a movie star) Marie Witters, folks!

Incroyable!
And for my next trick, Sport, I chuck one in the air and stuff the other up my nose!
Bravo, my dear!
Gee! What a Golly! Golly!
Ach, diese junge folk, eh français, nicht wahr.
Grrrrr, stupid vieux con!

INTRODUCING BIG LIONEL'S Speekeasy. WHAT SOME PEOPLE DO

Get Freda, quick!
I don't know nuffink fellers!
We both saw dat ace go up your pareu, bro'!
When I give the word, scream that Pare's been molesting you & we'll slip out the back. Ok?

Poco, poco, bambino!
oooh Big Lionel! I tink we's being raided!
I told Big Lionel, how can you take a bouncer seriously with a flower in his ear!

vera.

THE JOURNAL & THE (Last) WORD

SCENE: Fort Knox. 1953

Camp Commandant at desk checking out casualty lists. ENTER Conscript Hank Krappakowski Jr.

HK: Conscript Krappakowski Hank reporting for detai ...SIR!!!!

CC: Good man, Krappakowski. I understand you are willing to lay down your life for Uncle Sam in order to further our scientific preparedness to meet the imminent threat from the Russkie hordes.

HK: SIR!!!!!!!!

CC: Well done Krappakowski. We could do with more like you.

HK: I have 17 brothers...SIR!!

CC: Perhaps later. Here's your outfit. One bathing suit. One thin cotton nightdress One pair open-toed beach sandals.

HK: Florida Sir ?

CC: No, Krappakowski. The North Pole. Report to Dr. Davis. He's got your tickets.

HK: SIR!!!!!!!

Editor

NEWS

NOTEBOOK

In the next few issues, we shall be making a special effort to cope with the backlog of features which have built up through the pressure of major national news.

Some of the features to look forward to:

ATIU PINEAPPLES - A dying industry ?
THE DEVELOPING NATION which is everyone's current favourite.
OUR FRENCH CONNECTIONS- the good side.
CO-OPERATIVES - how can they be made to work ?
RUGBY LEAGUE - the Pacific Game
UP IN THE NORTH - what is happening in Micronesia.
ONE MAN PLANNED - a look at a special island.

Keep reading, folks!

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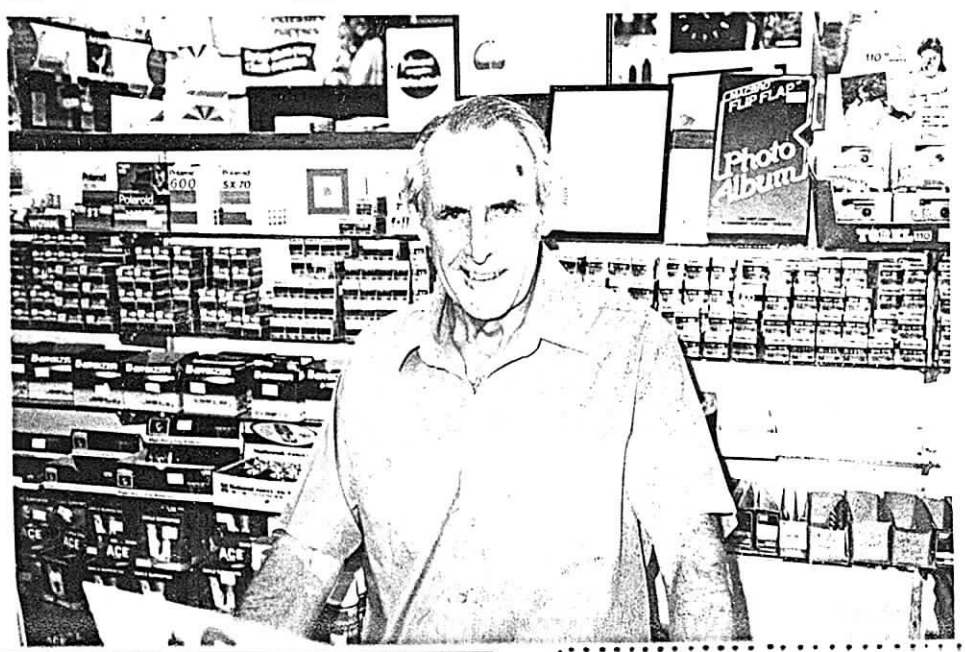
Rarotonga Pharmacy Ltd
PHOTOGRAPHIC DIVISION



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STOP PRESS

ATIU MUSICIANS HAVE ANNOUNCED PLANS TO UNIONISE THEMSELVES IN A MOVE THAT BRINGS THEM INTO LINE WITH TRENDS ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY AND THE PACIFIC

******

WITH FOOD SUPPLIES BEGINNING TO RUN SERIOUSLY LOW ON ATIU LATEST NEWS OF THE BOAT FROM RAROTONGA IS THAT IT WILL ARRIVE IN ATIU ON THE 17TH.

****

DON SILK OF IMPORT TRADERS STATES THAT PRICES MAY RISE DUE TO HIGHER TURNOVER TAX AUTOMATICALLY AS MATCHING LEVIES AND DUTIES HAVE NOT YET BEEN REMOVED AS INDICATED IN THE 87 BUDGET SPEECH

****

GOVET AUDITOR AND ELI LIQUIDATOR RICHARD MCDONALD IS REPORTED TO BE WORKING NOW IN EDUCATION. HIS PLACE AT AUDIT IS REPORTED TO BE HELD BY MR. R. BURROW UNDER AN ACTING APPOINTMENT.

only in the journal 16